

Probably the biggest book peddling institution in the world, for revenue only, is the association

#### THE EDDYITE BOOK CONCERN.

of highly intelligent (?) individuals known in modern English vernacular as the Eddyites, but sacrilegiously taking to themselves the name of "Church of Christ, Scientist." The thoughtful Mrs. Eddy, whose commercial instinct certainly suggests more of the material than the spiritual, though her printed word denies the existence of the material and asserts that man is wholly spirit, has made obligatory upon all her sheeplike following "to sell as many of the books as possible," or, in the event of their not doing so, to be liable to the horrible punishment of exclusion from the society of idiots, or Eddyites. Certainly a lack of commercial ingenuity can not be charged against the founder of the Eddyites. In this country we are impressed most strongly with that phase of the Eddyite movement by which its members are self-constituted medical quacks, but in England the sect seems to be attracting a good deal of attention, owing to its quasi religious attitude. On this score the Dean of Norwich has recently conducted a campaign against the Eddyites in a series of sermons. In one address, his text being, "They that are whole need not a physician, but they that are sick," he demonstrated from Mrs. Eddy's book the sacrilegious nature of her claims. It might be well for some of the ministers of God's people in this country to awaken to the importance of taking a similar stand and thus save the lives of a few hundred children annually.

At the annual meeting of the Kings County Medical Society (Brooklyn, New York) on January 20th, Dr. Bartley read a report of the committee on milk inspection that is worthy of attention. The

#### INSPECTION OF MILK.

commission had examined nearly 300 specimens of milk and had undertaken the work of establishing "certified milk" depots at various places where decent milk can be obtained. It was found that the number of bacteria per c. c. of ordinary "grocery store" milk averaged about 10,000,000, while the number per c. c. in the milk furnished by dealers complying with their requirements and "certified," could easily be kept below 1500, and in many instances was well below 1000. The Hoagland Laboratory had been placed at the disposal of the commission and the time of two men for almost the entire year had been devoted to the work. No funds being available, the commissioners had defrayed all their own incidental expenses, a characteristic unusual to commissions and highly commendable—when one is not a

commissioner! So excellent was the showing made that the society moved to recommend the trustees to appropriate funds for continuing the work for another year. This just goes to show what can be done if the effort is made, and certainly this work is worth doing; probably most of us who drink milk would have no lasting regret to know that we were consuming 9,999,000 less bacteria per c. c. of milk than had formerly been our unwilling habit. And doubtless the loss would be agreeable to the stomachs of many babies as well.

The Health Department of New York City recently purchased samples of phenacetin from

#### NEW YORK'S PHENACETIN.

something over 300 drug stores in the various boroughs of the city. Of these samples, less than one-fifth were found to be the pure drug which they purported to be; some were pure acetanilid and most of the impure specimens contained acetanilid in varying quantities, mixed with starch, gums, and other adulterants, and a small amount of phenacetin. This is truly a delightful state of affairs, and that similar conditions would be found to prevail in all parts of the country, if careful examinations were made, there can be no doubt. The present state of pharmacy, "as she is practiced," and therapeutics, "as she is not taught," are most deplorable. If the honest and self-respecting pharmacists and manufacturers on the one hand, and physicians and teachers on the other, do not soon combine on some practicable scientific basis for their own protection, the physician who desires to have his patient take any particular remedy will be forced to buy it himself, in original packages, and dispense it directly to his patient. It is appalling—almost incredible—that four-fifths of the pharmacists in question should be dishonest to the point of endangering life for such a paltry gain in dirty money.

It is not proper nor is it ethical for the physician to make use of secret preparations or nostrums in his treatment of the sick.

#### LIMITS IN ADVERTISING.

If he is competent to fulfill his obligations to the public, and to the authorities licensing him to practice, he is competent, supposedly, to prescribe such remedies as are most apt to relieve the condition for which his aid is sought; or, recognising the limitations of his profession, he is aware of the fact that all remedies will be useless. To prescribe or recommend the use of a nostrum or a preparation the actual ingredients of which he does not know, is to be guilty of fraud, unethical conduct, and incompetence, for he may be doing actual harm to his patient. Con-

sequently it is not proper nor is it ethical, to say nothing of its being dishonest, for a medical journal to admit to its advertising pages—and thus recommend physicians to use—nostrums or preparations the actual active ingredients of which are known only to the manufacturers. That is the position which this journal has taken in regard to advertising. If a reputable and presumably honest manufacturer wishes to offer a “specialty” for advertising, and states the quality of the active ingredients contained, it will be accepted, unless his advertising “copy” contains absurd claims for his preparation. If the manufacturer is one presumably not honest, nor truthful, his advertisement can not be accepted by us. Until we have a professional Bureau of Standardization to deal with these questions, the JOURNAL can do nothing more and nothing less.

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Nothing is so touchingly pathetic nor so beautiful as modesty and self-retirement in the truly great. It furnishes a living example for old and young, for the ambitious and for the honest plodder, and is admired by all. One can not help but feel a glow of admiring sympathy for the candid and Christian modesty of the commercial Mrs. Eddy, when she comes boldly to the front and denies a desire to be called “Mother Mary,” or to be revered and worshipped with, or even before that other Mary—the mother of Christ. “Mother Mary,” indeed! No, she did not ask her beloved followers to call her thus; rather she besought them not to do so; but in vain, for the eddyite is a persistent creature, and an adoring. The eddyite, too, has learned well the text “Suffer little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of Heaven.” The little children come; they suffer; and they quickly depart to “the kingdom of Heaven,” through the Christian assistance of the eddyite and the teachings of his beloved “Mother Mary.” And it is even now the twentieth century.

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It is with much pleasure that the JOURNAL records the passage of a bill through the Senate, on February 4th, granting a pension of \$125 a month to the widow of the late Dr. Walter Reed, in special recognition of his eminent services to mankind in discovering the cause as well as the means of preventing transmission and propagation of yellow fever. Certainly such action is the least that our Government could do in recog-

nition of his incalculable service, a service that, in the opinion of General Leonard Wood, will effect a saving annually of more lives that were lost in the Spanish war, and of more dollars than the total cost of that war.

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The Carnegie Institute (as well as the medical profession) is to be congratulated for undertaking the publication of the Index Medicus. Like many purely scientific publications, it could not be self-supporting, and hence died; that it is to be brought into life once more and the work taken care of by the Carnegie Institute, will be welcome news to many who have sadly felt the loss of this very valuable bibliographic publication. If we may take this action as indicating, even to a small degree, the intention of the trustees of the Carnegie Institute to foster and aid meritorious bibliographic work, then is the news still more delightful. Nothing is more useful nor more essential to the worker in any scientific or literary field, than even fairly good bibliographies; yet commercially they can not be successful, and consequently their number is very limited. Thus far the trustees of the Carnegie Institute have given rise to the impression that they had determined to become a heating plant on the hot air plan; the news that they have stopped talking long enough to do something is encouraging.

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Resolutions were presented and unanimously adopted opposing any change in the existing medical law of the State at the present session of the Legislature, by the California Academy of Medicine at the last meeting, as follows:

“WHEREAS, The present medical law was most carefully drawn on the lines of the experiences of the different States having medical law; and,

“WHEREAS, It had, at the time of its passage, the support of all State medical societies having State boards of examiners; and,

“WHEREAS, It had been in force but sixteen months, and has in that time satisfied the vast majority of the medical profession, and has received the unqualified indorsement of the chief medical societies of the State; be it,

“Resolved, That the California Academy of Medicine condemns all such proposed medical legislation, and that it expresses herein its confidence in the efficiency of the present law, and in the fairness and practicability of the examinations held by the State Board of Medical Examiners.”